GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:582
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
MONTHLY RENT FOR COMMERCIAL SUBSCRIBERS
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has decided not to implement TRAI`s decision of increasing monthly rent for commercial subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereto;

(d) the other recommendations made by TRAI for telephone users; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) to (c): In the TRAI`s Telecom. Tariff Order (20th Amendment) dated 14th March, 2002, the rental for commercial subscribers has been increased from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 310/- per month and number of free calls per month was reduced from 75 to 30. However, this Tariff Order could not be implemented by MTNL due to difficulty of segregating/classifying the subscribers into commercial and non-commercial subscriber categories as per the definition in the TRAI Order.Besides, it was felt that at the present juncture of evolving competition, a tariff increase could involve loss of customers to other competitors. So, MTNL is at present continuing with the existing tariff structure.

(d) In the standard package for commercial subscribers, the TRAI has reduced the number of free calls permitted per month of a billing cycle to 45 for rural subscribers and 30 for urban subscribers, as against earlier standard package of 75 and 60 metered calls respectively.

(e) Since the TRAI`s Telecom Tariff Order (20th Amendment) 2002, specifies an upper limit, the operators are free to fix tariffs below this level.